Confirmatory Sampling for Impaired Waters

Certain waters of the state are identified as "use impaired" due to exceedances of the Surface Water Quality Standards. The data used to classify these waters may be: (1) outdated and not reflective of current water quality conditions or (2) may have a positive bias due to older sample collection and analysis techniques now known to be inappropriate for ambient water metals monitoring. Evaluation monitoring, using newer "Clean Methods Techniques", creates a metals database accurate to 1 part per billion (ppb) for assessment relative to NJ's Surface Water Quality Standards. The determination regarding which sites and which parameters are being monitored is made by staff from the Department's Watershed Modeling and Water Assessment Teams.

Conventional parameters are being monitored concurrently with metals sampling. These data are used to expand the general water quality characterization of the waterbodies and will aid in determining boundaries and parameters for future Total Maximum Daily Load Studies. All monitoring activities are conducted under targeted flow conditions.

